Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a management layer to process data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface.

an encoder coupled to the management layer to encode the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;

a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

a decoder coupled to the packetizer to decode the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the decoder comprises a detector to detect the second format and a converter to convert the string of data back into the data having the first format.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the input device is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

8. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a management layer to process data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface.

an encoder coupled to the management layer to encode the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and

a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, a smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising an interface layer coupled to the packetizer to process the at least one packet into one of an instant messaging, a chat message, and an e-mail message.

11. (previously presented) A method comprising:

processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;

encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;

packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the decoding comprises detecting the

second format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

15. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

16. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

18. (previously presented) A method comprising:

processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;

encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and

packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

processing the at least one packet into one of an instant message, a chat message, and an e-mail message.

21. (previously presented) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:

computer readable program code for processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;

computer readable program code for encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;

computer readable program code for packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

computer readable program code for decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

22. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

23. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

24. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

25. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

26. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the data having the first format is an ink-input data.

27. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

28. (previously presented) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:

computer readable program code for processing data in a first format from an input device using a processing function, the processing function being enabled or disabled using a configuration user interface;

computer readable program code for encoding the data into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and

computer readable program code for packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format.

29. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein processing function is one of a filtering, an interpolation, a smoothing, a data reduction, a compaction, a compression, an encryption, and a handwriting recognition.

30. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein the computer readable program code further comprising:

computer readable program code for processing the at least one packet into one of an instant message, a chat message, and an e-mail message.